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ADM Stansfield Turner, Director of Central Intelligence
Commonwealth Club of California, San Francisco, 5 August 1977

Excerpt from question-and-answer session:

Q. How long do you think it will take to regain the effectiveness overseas in carrying out legitimate intelligence functions that have been lost over recent years of adverse publicity?

A: There is no way you can answer that with a number. But I will certainly agree that we have been grievously injured in our government capabilities by some of the unfortunate revelations. Not just revelations of misdoing but revelations of important information. Traitors like Mr. Agee and others who have published, from their knowledge of the Central Intelligence Agency, the names of agents, the names of people and places and so on. And it takes a while to recoup, to regain confidence. We've had a number of people who were, in my view, heroes, people who were not US citizens but who were working for us overseas at the risk of their lives because they believed in us, come to us and say, "Can I risk working for you any longer? Will my name appear in the Washington Post tomorrow?" That's a difficult answer for me to give. And I have had to personally intervene in some of these to try to hang on to the splendid cooperation we're getting. I can only say that there is a delicate balance in this country between what we all believe in, the freedom of information, the freedom of inquiry, and the unnecessary exposure of delicate, sensitive, critical national security information.

Hert —
This was the reference
I discussed with you last Friday.
Only the S.F. Examiner seems to
have picked it up thus far.

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